

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (new)

11. A system comprising an interrogating device and a plurality of transponders (TRn),

the interrogating device being capable of detecting a start of sending signal (S) from one of the transponders (TR1) and said interrogating device then modifying (M) its interrogation signal (INT) so as to render the other transponders (Trn) in a standby state,

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the silent transponders (Trn) being capable of interpreting the modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT) as an extended silence command, said one transponder (TR1) being capable of continuing to send signals, including its unique identification signal (Id), despite the modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT),

after identification of said one detected transponder (TR1), the interrogating device again modifies (M) its interrogation signal (INT) so as to extend the standby state of the other silent transponders (Trn) and, sends a command (C) to said one transponder (TR1),

the silent transponders (Trn) interpreting the again modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT) as an extended silence request,

said one detected transponder (TR1) at the end of sending its identifier signal (Id), sets itself into a listening mode (E) for a given duration (D) during which it is capable of interpreting and then executing the command (C) sent by the Interrogating device.

Claim 12 (new)

12. A system according to Claim 11, wherein each transponder (TRn) comprises means for counting time and means of reinitialising the counting of the time upon receiving a modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT).

Claim 13 (new)

13. A system according to Claim 12, wherein the time counting means being capable of determining a predetermined listening time of said listening mode (E) of said duration (D) of said detected transponder (TR1), and during said listening time duration said one detected transponder (TR1) sends no signal.

Claim 14 (new)

14. A communication system according to Claim 11, wherein said one transponder (TR1) after the execution (EXE) of the command (C), sets itself into listening mode (E) again for the predetermined duration (D) in order to allow a new communication phase, a new modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT) reinitialising the standby state of the non-identified transponders (TRn), and a new command (C) being sent by the interrogating device, interpreted and executed by the one transponder (TR1).

Claim 15 (new)

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15. A communication system according to Claim 11, wherein said one transponder (TR1) resumes the cyclic sending of its identification signal (Id) after a random pause time (P) in the case where no modification (M) of the interrogation signal occurred during the listening time (E) duration (D).

Claim 16 (new)

16. A communication system according to claim 11, wherein the modification (M) of the interrogation signal consists of a mute in the sending of the continuously sent Interrogation signal (INT).

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Claim 17 (new)

17. A communication system according to claim 11,
wherein the command (C) sent by the interrogating device
comprises information to be read and/or written and/or
executed by the one transponder (TR1).

Claim 18 (new)

18. A method for communicating between an interrogating device and a plurality of transponders (TRn) comprising the following steps:

a - sending a continuous interrogation signal (INT) by the interrogating device;

b - sending a start of message frame (S) by a first transponder (TR1) and an identification signal (In);

c - detection of this frame (S) by the interrogating device (INT);

d - modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT) so as to set the remaining transponders (Trn) into a silent standby state for a time duration D1 so as to prevent them from sending their identification signals;

e - reading the first transponder's identification signal (In) by the interrogating device;

f - setting the identified first transponder (TR1) into listening mode (E);

g - modification (M) of the interrogation signal (INT) so as to reinitialise the standby state of the silent transponders (Trn) for a duration D2 so as to prevent them from sending their identification signals;

h - sending a command (C) by the interrogating device (INT) which is received by the first identified transponder (TR1);

i - execution (EXE) of the command (C) by the identified transponder (TR1); and then

j - sending of a reply signal (REP) from the first transponder (TR1).

Claim 19 (new)

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19. A method according to Claim 18, comprising a plurality of supplementary steps, including setting the identified first transponder (TR1) again into listening mode after the step j; and of carrying out the steps g to j in a loop so as to perform a plurality of command-execution operations on the identified transponder (TR1).

Claim 20 (new)

20. A method according to Claim 18 wherein the duration D2 is equal to the duration D1 added to the execution time for one operation (OP), the duration D1 corresponding to the duration for sending the identifier (Di) multiplied by a random number (N).
